

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081064

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, SO, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA

ARTICLES APPEARED IN NEW YORK TIMES (APRIL 7) AND WASHINGTON POST (APRIL 8), ATTRIBUTED TO "DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS" AND "PENTAGON SPOKESMAN" RESPECTIVELY, CONCERNING SOVIET CRUISE MISSILE STORAGE FACILITY AT BERBERA. ARTICLES FOLLOWED SAME LINE AS MARCH 17 NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH SCHLESINGER, ALTHOUGH TIMES PIECE FOCUSED MORE ON THREAT TO ISRAEL POSED BY GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE NEAR RED SEA ENTRANCE. MISSILE FACILITY WAS DESCRIBED AS "FIRST SUCH INSTALLATION OUTSIDE SOVIET BLOC". COPIES OF ARTICLES BEING POUCHED. PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED BUT QUESTION DID NOT ARISE AT NOON BRIEFING. AMBASSADOR ADDOU ALLUDED TO ARTICLES AT LUNCH WITH AF/E DIRECTOR, AND ONCE AGAIN CHALLENGED VERACITY OF REPORTS, BUT DID NOT MAKE BIG ISSUE OF THEM. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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